

CST MODERNIZATION/CERFP

AREA OF INTEREST: CURRENT OPERATIONS

FY06 UFR: \$15.45M

APPN: OMNG and ANG O&M

DESCRIPTION: The Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) is a high-priority response unit supporting civil authorities in responding to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) situation. Each CST is comprised of 22 full-time National Guard members. It consists of six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical, and survey, who have been specially trained and equipped to provide a technical reach-back capability to other experts. The WMD-CST mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support to facilitate additional resources. The NG CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (NG CERFP), comprised of M-Day soldiers and airmen who are task organized from existing National Guard units or organizations, provides specialized capabilities the National Guard may be requested to perform by either local, state, or federal authorities. The training and tailoring of existing units into a responsive, flexible force package ensures that the National Guard is ready to respond, when asked, with specialized CBRNE support.

ISSUE JUSTIFICATION: Current capability is insufficient due to the inability of current acquisition processes to keep pace with technological developments (acquisition time-lag of 6-8 years for technology insertion, NG CSTs, are not able to capitalize on emerging technologies). Technological superiority is critical for NORTHCOM/PACOM to rapidly respond using accurate data to protect population and infrastructure after a WMD event. Funding must be provided and processes streamlined so that NORTHCOM/PACOM can take advantage of the latest CBRNE detection capabilities and information management tools to ensure rapid and accurate data acquisition. Expeditious transfer of technologies to CST's and CERFP's will provide faster, more reliable identification of materials, better advice to incident commanders and a better decision-making ability at the Combatant Command level.

FUNDING IMPACT: DoD and NORTHCOM will not have the best available capability to make a rapid assessment of a WMD event in terms of scope and type. The inability to quickly integrate emerging technologies hinders the effectiveness of CST's to identify types and concentrations of CBRNE materials, increasing risk to civilian population, critical infrastructure and adversely affect the NORTHCOM/PACOM decision cycle. The resulting time-lag using antiquated information management tools will adversely impact on establishing a correct common operating picture. There will be an inability to sustain and maintain operational readiness of current non-standard equipment for CERFP teams. Teams will not have sufficient medical supplies. Personnel will not be fully trained on Search and Extraction. This will result in a possible mission failure due to condition of equipment, lack of medical supplies and lack of training. CST is funded by the Army and requires \$8.5M to achieve its operational requirements. CERFP requires \$6.95M funding: \$4.75M by the Army and \$2.2M by the Air Force.